

THE STUDENT TEACHING TEAM

Becoming an effective teacher is a developmental process. The student teacher needs numerous classroom experiences, along with time to practice and time for reflection. Any developmental experience, though, takes time and does not occur in a vacuum. The student teaching experience, above any other placement, requires the concerted efforts of a team of professionals. Without a doubt, the time on campus spent with caring and exceptional professors sets the stage for a successful experience. While the professors and staff on-campus remain a critical source of support, it is the team, consisting of the cooperating teacher, the college supervisor, *and* the student teacher, that comes together *during* the student teaching placement to provide the day-to-day guidance and feedback necessary for the student teacher's progress, growth and achievements. Each team member has unique responsibilities and functions throughout the student teaching experience. They work closely together to help the student teacher move through the placement successfully.

The Cooperating Teacher

The cooperating teacher's main task is to help the student teacher understand the various roles and responsibilities of being a classroom teacher. This requires a level of trust as well as modeling excellent preparation and teaching, providing "transparency" to the planning process, and giving consistent, specific feedback to the student teacher throughout the experience. The goal is to provide a safe, caring setting where the student teacher learns from an excellent model and continually seeks to become the best teacher possible.

The College Supervisor

The college supervisor serves as a link in this triad relationship, providing not only a bridge between the College and the school setting, but also between the cooperating teacher and the student teacher. The college supervisor initially establishes relationships with both the cooperating teacher and the student teacher and then moves into a role that provides feedback and support for both individuals. This occurs through regular and systematic observations of the student teacher, followed by conferencing with both the teacher and the student teacher. The college supervisor is responsible for providing positive feedback while also processing concerns with the student teacher. He/she may find it necessary to mediate conversations and negotiate through challenging situations. In the end, it is the college supervisor who provides guidance in the final evaluation process and assumes responsibility for assigning the grade for the student teaching experience.

The Student Teacher

Over the course of the semester, the student teacher will gradually assume full responsibility for the class, including planning, organizing, teaching and assessing for student learning. A positive attitude, a willingness to learn, a genuine interest in teaching, and a desire for excellence and professional growth provide the basis for a successful student teaching experience.